

CHANGES

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Hendricks County ARES Emergency Coordinator

Since 9-1-1, the way that public safety has handled emergencies have changed here in this country.

A lot of the old ways of how a disaster was being handled through emergency amateur radio communications has also changed.

Our government has made a standard that all emergency responders and related groups must work together in a common format. In order to expedite, and to make sure things are handled the best way possible, the National Incident Management System was established.

All public safety, public service, and those who will be associating, working with these groups will need to be involved and certified in "NIMS".

This includes any amateur radio emergency groups. For us in ARES currently this is not a mandatory requirement, but a necessity. We cannot be asked to help if none of us know what to do when we arrive on the scene of a disaster. NIMS is the bible of handling emergency radio communications for us. Having your NIMS certificates plus attending our training classes, participating in various public events that use amateur radio, and amateur radio activities that are offered each year. Being active and certified in these two areas assures that we are ready and can handle any job assignment when called upon during a disaster/emergency. It takes a lot more than just having an HT and a FCC amateur radio license.

In order for us to know the needs of our served agencies that are involved in a disaster, having the knowledge of NIMS is a must.

In the coming months ahead, your Hendricks County ARES leadership will be getting in contact with HCARES members about taking the NIMS courses which you can take at your leisure, on line, free of charge. (training.fema.gov) We ask that when you take the FEMA on-line courses and pass, you send us a copy of your certificate for our records. We are also redesigning the HCARES ID card which will have an expiration date and some other modifications on it.

We feel that these changes are necessary to remain a viable resource for those agencies who will depend upon us to help them continue to do their job.... Saving Lives.....

If you are not an HCARES member, live in Hendricks County and want to join, contact me at <mailto:gunship@wildblue.net>.